

AMENDMENT

In the drawings:

Please replace Fig. 4 with the drawing sheet enclosed herein.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-46.

Please add new claims 47-76 as provided below.

1-46 (cancelled)

47. (new) A system for acquiring an inventory of sophisticated office machines comprising:

a needs analyzer, the needs analyzer further includes a needs receiver, the needs receiver is capable of receiving needs input by a consumer,

wherein the needs analyzer analyzes the needs input by the consumer and converts said needs into a list of vendor specifications,

a consultant interface, the consultant interface is capable of interacting with a consultant, the consultant interface is software coupled to the needs analyzer wherein the consultant may review and modify the vendor specification list produced by the needs analyzer.

48. (new) The system of claim 47 further including a vendor quote requester wherein the vendor quote requester converts the list of vendor specifications into vendor-specific requests for quotations and prepares input screens reflecting each request for quotation.

49. (new) The system of claim 48 further including a vendor interface, wherein one or more vendors review the requests for quotations and prepare and submit bids in response to said requests for quotations.

50. (new) The system of claim 49 further including a contract writer, wherein the contract writer produces a contract specifying monitored contract terms for each machine.

51. (new) The system of claim 48 further including a contract writer, wherein the contract writer produces a contract specifying monitored contract terms for each machine.

52. (new) The system of claim 47 further including a contract writer, wherein the contract writer produces a contract specifying monitored contract terms for each machine.

53. (new) A system for managing an inventory of sophisticated office machines comprising:

one or more managed sophisticated office machine, each machine having monitored contract terms, each machine further having an associated vendor responsible for complying with the monitored contract terms,

a vendor monitor, wherein compliance status for each monitored contract term is determined by querying each machine and testing each monitored contract term associated with said machine for compliance,

a vendor manager, the vendor manager able to communicate with said vendors, wherein each said associated vendor is automatically notified of compliance status.

54. (new) The system of claim 53 further including a real-time reporter, the vendor monitor further includes a productivity tracker and a cost tracker,

wherein the productivity tracker maintains useful productivity-related statistics, the cost tracker maintains useful cost-related statistics,

wherein said statistics are reported by said real-time reporter on demand.

55. (new) The system of claim 54 further including a contract writer, wherein the contract writer produces a contract specifying monitored contract terms for each machine,

wherein the monitored contract terms produced by said contract writer are monitored by said vendor monitor and said compliance status is reported by said real time reporter.

56. (new) The system of claim 55 further including a needs analyzer, the needs analyzer further includes a needs receiver, the needs receiver is capable of receiving needs input by a consumer,

wherein the needs analyzer analyzes the needs input by the consumer and converts said needs into a list of vendor specifications,

a consultant interface, the consultant interface is capable of interacting with a consultant, the consultant interface is software coupled to the needs analyzer wherein the consultant may review and modify the vendor specification list produced by the needs analyzer,.

57. (new) The system of claim 56 further including a vendor quote requester wherein the vendor quote requester converts the list of vendor specifications into vendor-specific requests for quotations and prepares input screens reflecting each request for quotation.

58. (new) The system of claim 57 further including a vendor interface, wherein one or more vendors review the requests for quotations and prepare and submit bids in response to said requests for quotations.

59. (new) The system of claim 55 further including a vendor quote requester wherein the vendor quote requester converts the list of vendor specifications into vendor-specific requests for quotations and prepares input screens reflecting each request for quotation.

60. (new) The system of claim 59 further including a vendor interface, wherein one or more vendors review the requests for quotations and prepare and submit bids in response to said requests for quotations.

61. (new) The system of claim 54 further including a needs analyzer, the needs analyzer further includes a needs receiver, the needs receiver is capable of receiving needs input by a consumer,

wherein the needs analyzer analyzes the needs input by the consumer and converts said needs into a list of vendor specifications,

a consultant interface, the consultant interface is capable of interacting with a consultant, the consultant interface is software coupled to the needs analyzer wherein the consultant may review and modify the vendor specification list produced by the needs analyzer,.

62. (new) The system of claim 61 further including a vendor quote requester wherein the vendor quote requester converts the list of vendor specifications into vendor-specific

requests for quotations and prepares input screens reflecting each request for quotation.

63. (new) The system of claim 62 further including a vendor interface, wherein one or more vendors review the requests for quotations and prepare and submit bids in response to said requests for quotations.

64. (new) The system of claim 54 further including a vendor quote requester wherein the vendor quote requester converts the list of vendor specifications into vendor-specific requests for quotations and prepares input screens reflecting each request for quotation.

65. (new) The system of claim 64 further including a vendor interface, wherein one or more vendors review the requests for quotations and prepare and submit bids in response to said requests for quotations.

66. (new) The system of claim 53 further including a contract writer, wherein the contract writer produces a contract specifying monitored contract terms for each machine,

wherein the monitored contract terms produced by said contract writer are monitored by said vendor monitor and said compliance status is reported by said real time reporter.

67. (new) The system of claim 66 further including a needs analyzer, the needs analyzer further includes a needs receiver, the needs receiver is capable of receiving needs input by a consumer,

wherein the needs analyzer analyzes the needs input by the consumer and converts said needs into a list of vendor specifications,

a consultant interface, the consultant interface is capable of interacting with a consultant, the consultant interface is software coupled to the needs analyzer wherein the consultant may review and modify the vendor specification list produced by the needs analyzer.

68. (new) The system of claim 67 further including a vendor quote requester wherein the vendor quote requester converts the list of vendor specifications into vendor-specific requests for quotations and prepares input screens reflecting each request for quotation.

69. (new) The system of claim 68 further including a vendor interface, wherein one or more vendors review the requests for quotations and prepare and submit bids in response to said requests for quotations.

70. (new) The system of claim 66 further including a vendor quote requester wherein the vendor quote requester converts the list of vendor specifications into vendor-specific requests for quotations and prepares input screens reflecting each request for quotation.

71. (new) The system of claim 70 further including a vendor interface, wherein one or more vendors review the requests for quotations and prepare and submit bids in response to said requests for quotations.

72. (new) The system of claim 53 further including a needs analyzer, the needs analyzer further includes a needs receiver, the needs receiver is capable of receiving needs input by a consumer,

wherein the needs analyzer analyzes the needs input by the consumer and converts said needs into a list of vendor specifications,

a consultant interface, the consultant interface is capable of interacting with a consultant, the consultant interface is software coupled to the needs analyzer wherein the consultant may review and modify the vendor specification list produced by the needs analyzer.

73. (new) The system of claim 72 further including a vendor quote requester wherein the vendor quote requester converts the list of vendor specifications into vendor-specific

requests for quotations and prepares input screens reflecting each request for quotation.

74. (new) The system of claim 73 further including a vendor interface, wherein one or more vendors review the requests for quotations and prepare and submit bids in response to said requests for quotations.

75. (new) The system of claim 53 further including a vendor quote requester wherein the vendor quote requester converts the list of vendor specifications into vendor-specific requests for quotations and prepares input screens reflecting each request for quotation.

76. (new) The system of claim 75 further including a vendor interface, wherein one or more vendors review the requests for quotations and prepare and submit bids in response to said requests for quotations.

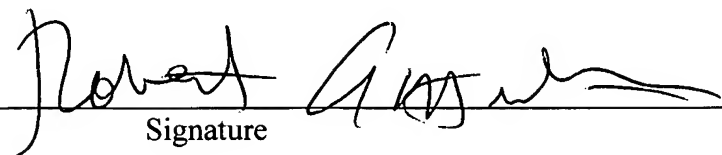


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